

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

mySKY™



MEADE®

INSTRUCTIONS

mySKY™ is an easy-to-use, multimedia tool that will guide you through the night sky. It's like having your own personal astronomer pointing out the wonders of the universe.



Quick Start

Follow the Quick Start Guide on the back cover to insert the batteries, plug in the earbuds and turn on mySKY. When mySKY starts up, a screen displays which offers the choice: "Instructions" or "SkyMap."

Instruction Video

If you are using mySKY for the first time, press the up arrow to select "Instructions"— a brief introductory video that explains how to get started using mySKY.



The instruction video will teach you how to use the buttons, what the trigger is for, how to use the identify function and how to take a guided tour. If you wish to exit the instruction video at any time, press the button labeled "Back" or "Exit."

You can use the four arrow buttons shown in the second figure to select options on the display screen. Press one of the arrow keys to select the item you want. For example, if you press the up arrow, the option at the top of the screen is selected and so forth. In most cases, when you press an arrow key, that option is automatically selected.

Important Note about your mySKY

Your mySKY uses very sensitive magnetic sensors to determine where you are pointing it in the sky. The magnetic lines of force that are detected by these sensors are bent and distorted by any magnetic materials or large metal objects such as cars, metal fences or steel reinforced buildings. In order for your mySKY to work accurately, you must be about 10 yards or meters from the average car. The larger the metal object, the farther you should be from it to get the best performance from your mySKY.

Time, Date, and Location

When the instruction video ends or when you select "SkyMap," mySKY needs to know your location, date and time. The Time and Location screen displays. You will be presented with three choices the first time you use mySKY:

- Get From GPS
- Enter Manually
- Demonstration Mode. You can select GPS fix or you can manually enter your location, date and time.

The GPS fix will automatically enter the location, time and date, but because of anomalies and interference in different geographic locations, GPS acquisition can take up to several minutes. Manually entering your location, time and date is the faster method and typically takes less than a minute.

To select GPS fix, use the Up or Down arrows to select the "Get from GPS" line (the radio circle will be checked), and press Done. The unit will attempt to get a GPS fix. After mySKY acquires a GPS signal, you will now be in the default mode, which is "Identify." You will learn more about this mode in the "Identify an Object" section (page 4).

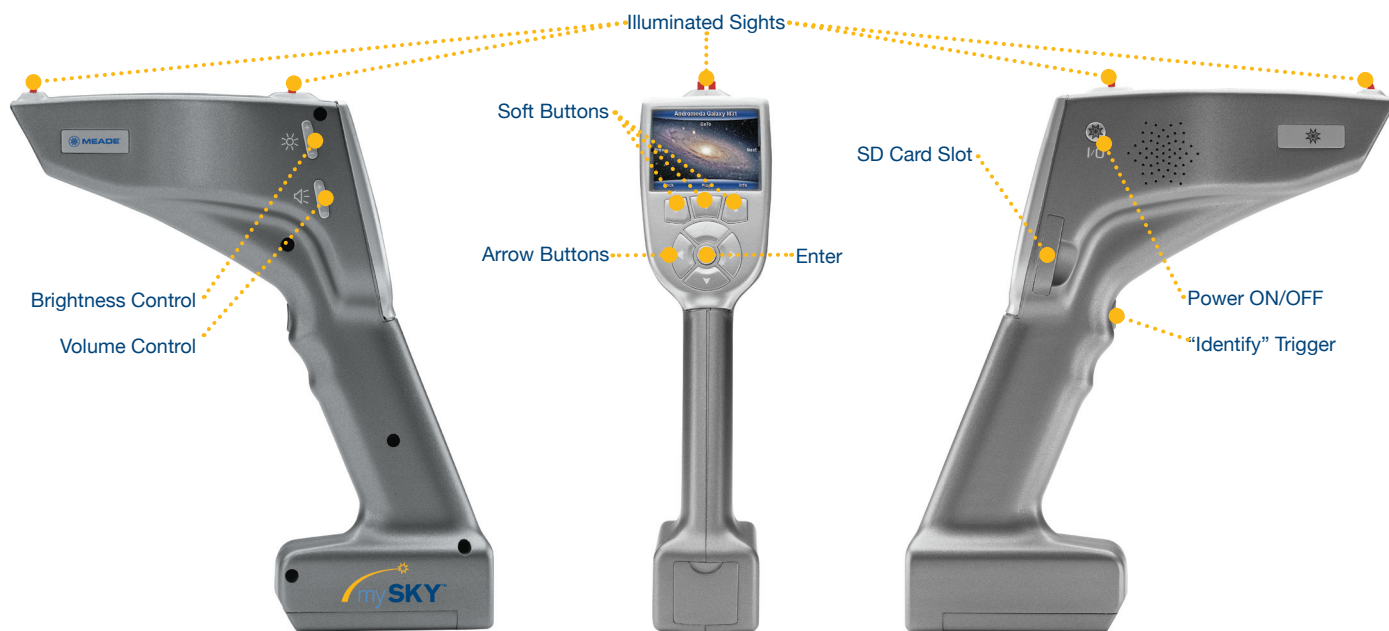
To enter your location time and date manually, use the arrows to scroll down to the Enter Manually line and press Done.

First, enter the date: Use the arrow keys to move the highlight across the number pad. Once the desired number is highlighted, press Enter. Enter the date in the format: mm/dd/yy.

For example, if you wish to enter March 6, 2008, press the following keys:

0 (zero), Enter, Three, Enter (mm)
0, Enter, 6, Enter (dd)
0, Enter, 8, Enter (yy)

Press Done after you have entered the date.



Next, choose your state or country: Press the up or down arrows to scroll through the list one line at a time. Press the right or left arrows to scroll through the list one page at a time. Once your country or state is highlighted, press Enter and the City list displays.

Scroll through the list of cities and choose the city nearest to your location. Once your choice is highlighted press Enter.

Next enter the time: Enter the hour and minutes, as correct to the minute as possible, in military (24 hour) time. Military Time is the same as 12 hour a.m. times, but for p.m. times, it is the p.m. time plus 12 hours. Enter the time in the same manner that you entered the date. For example, if you wish to enter 9:20 p.m. (9:20 p.m. + 12:00 = 21:20 in military time), press the following keys:

2, Enter, 1, Enter (hour)
2 Enter, 0, Enter (minutes)

If you're unused to military time values, for all times past 12 noon, add 12 plus the hour. For example, if the time is 6:00 pm, add 12 plus 6 and the time is 18:00. Likewise, 2:15 a.m. is 02:15.

mySKY compensates for Daylight Savings automatically.

When you are finished entering the time, press Done. A "Skymap" screen displays. You are now in the default mode, which is "Identify." You will learn more about this mode in the "Identify an Object" section (page 4).

Your location, time and date are now stored in memory until you change the batteries. The next time you turn on mySKY, the Time and Location screen will display four choices:

- [your time, date and last location]
- Get from GPS

- Enter manually
- Demonstration mode

If the displayed time, date and location are correct, select the time, date and location line and press Done to go directly to the Skymap screen and you can immediately begin identifying stars and use other mySKY features.

Select the Demonstration mode if you wish to get a demonstration of mySKY's operation during the daytime or when you are inside.

Sensor Calibration

When mySKY has your time and location, you may be asked to place mySKY on a stable surface while it adjusts its sensors. This usually takes about 30 to 45 seconds.

If it takes longer, make sure the mySKY is not setting on any operating machinery, speaker or other surface that is moving or vibrating. When the mySKY is done adjusting the sensors, the sights will light up and the screen will display the SkyMap.

Demo Mode

If you wish to explore mySKY while indoors where GPS signals are not available, wait for the GPS satellite acquisition screen to appear, then press the top right button just below the screen labeled "Abort." Then press the down arrow button twice to select "Demo Mode" and then press the button in the center of the four arrow buttons. This will put mySKY in the demo mode so you can get a feel how mySKY works while you're indoors and in the light.

Note that whenever a star map is displayed and you press the trigger, mySKY will attempt to identify the object and

the screen will show the choices about the object you were pointed at.

What Happens When You Choose “Instructions”

A video displays that explains the basic operations of mySKY. The video covers the following topics:

Volume: Turn your volume control to a comfortable level by using the volume control button.

Brightness: Press the + or – side of the brightness button to brighten or dim both the sights on top of mySKY and the display.

Soft Buttons: The three buttons just below the screen are called soft buttons. The labels on the lower part of the screen show the actions that will be performed by the soft buttons.



In the picture above, the left button is labeled “Back,” the center button is labeled “pause/play” and the right button is labeled “Next.” Some of the most common labels for the soft buttons:

Back: The “Back” button lets you go to the previous screen.

Next: The “Next” button moves you forward to the next step or screen. For example, when you first select “Instructions,” mySKY will prompt you to press “Next” to give you a feel for how “Next” works.

pause/play: The pause/play button lets you pause the video at any time. Press pause/play to begin/start were you left off.

SkyMap: When the SkyMap screen displays, you can use mySKY to identify and locate celestial objects. However, the labels for the soft buttons will change from screen to screen. Many of these labels are shortcuts that will take you to other menus or screens.

Other buttons

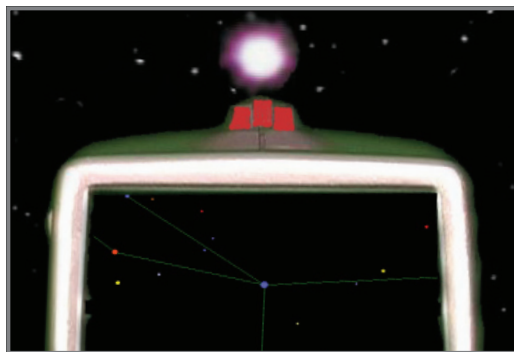
Arrow Keys: Press one of the arrow buttons to select an item. In most cases, when you press an arrow, that option is automatically selected.



Enter: The “Enter” button is the round button in the center of the arrow buttons. In the case of numbers or a long list of objects, first scroll through the list using the down or up arrow buttons. Press “Enter” to select a highlighted choice.

Three Little Lights (Sights)

Do you see the three small lights on the top of mySKY? These are the sights to line up the celestial object you wish identify and learn about.



First, line up the light on the front between the two lights on the back. Then line up the object you wish to identify just above the front light. Practice lining up an object using the lights and you’ll be an expert in no time.

The Trigger

The trigger is located on the hand grip. When the trigger is pushed, you tell mySKY that you are pointing at an object in the sky that you wish to identify and learn about.

Identify an Object

mySKY has several modes of operation. The most important mode is “Identify” – this is the default mode. When you first turn on mySKY and select the SkyMap option, the built-in GPS automatically gets a fix from three or more satellites. The fix tells mySKY its location and what the time and date is. mySKY then uses this information to find celestial objects, such as stars, constellations, planets and so forth.

In just a few moments a star map will appear on the screen showing the area of the sky where you are pointing mySKY. Center an object in the sights and pull the trigger. mySKY will tell you what the object is. Important Note: Once you have pressed the trigger, you no longer need to point mySKY at the object (you can relax your arm and hold mySKY in a comfortable position to see the display).

Press “Play” or “Info” to get more information about the object. In many cases, an image of the selected object appears on the screen. Press “Play” (if it is displayed) to hear a verbal descriptions of the object. Pressing the Info button displays text about the object.

Note: If your mySKY does not get a GPS fix, you can select “Retry” to give the GPS more time to get a fix or select “Enter time, date, location” to enter this information manually. Just follow the screens to enter the date and time using the arrow buttons to select the number and the center button to accept the number. When the time or date is complete, press “Done.” Enter your location by selecting the country or state from the list. You can move up or down in the list by using the up or down arrows. You can move a full page at a time in any long list by using the left or right arrows. When your country or state is highlighted, press the center button. Now, using the same controls, select the city nearest your location and press the center button.

Take a Tour

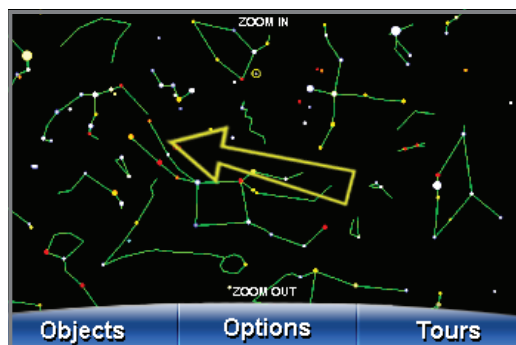
Another mode is “Tour.” When you select the “Tonight’s Best” Tour” mySKY will guide you to the best objects in the sky for your time, date and location. When the first object of the Tour displays, you have several choices.



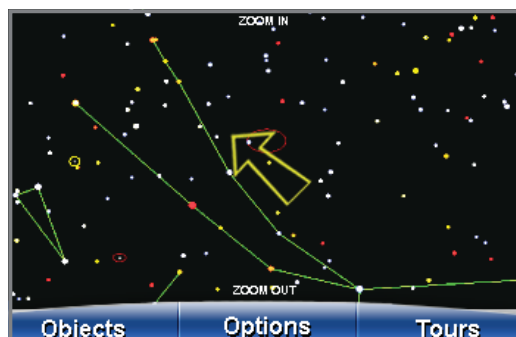
If this is an object you wish to learn more about, press “Play” for audio descriptions and images or “Info” for on-screen text data about the object. If you wish to skip this object, press the right arrow to choose “Next” and proceed to the next object on the Tour. If you wish to have mySKY find the object in the sky for you, press the up arrow to select “GoTo.”

How to Locate an Object in the Sky:

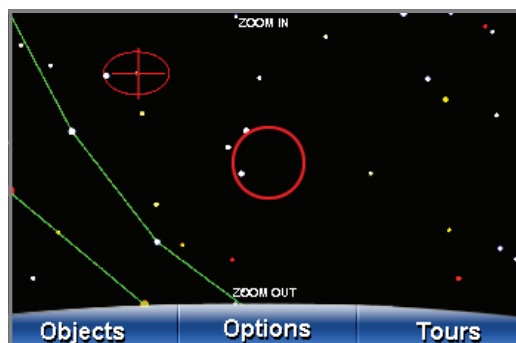
When you press “GoTo” on any screen, the screen will display a star map and an arrow will appear. Move mySKY in the direction the arrow is pointing.



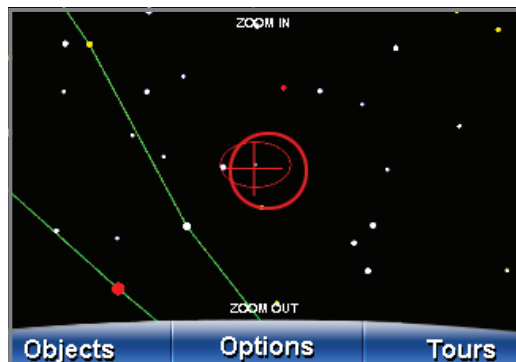
As you move mySKY closer to the object, the arrow will get shorter and shorter.



When you get very close to the object, a red crosshair will be displayed at the position of the object on the SkyMap.



Move mySKY slowly to center the red crosshair in the circle at the center of the display.



The circle will then flash to let you know that you have found the object, a chime will sound and the screen will display the object page.



Push the soft key labeled “Play” for audio descriptions and images of the object or “Info” for on-screen text data about the object. To exit a tour: Press the button labeled “End Tour.” If the “End Tour” option is not displayed, keep pressing the “Back” button until “End Tour” is displayed.

Catalogs of Celestial Objects

The sky is full of interesting and mysterious objects, not just stars and planets. mySKY has a database that contains over 30,000 celestial objects. Although most of these objects cannot be seen with the naked eye, mySKY can still show you where they are and give you images and information about them. If you select an object from any of mySKY’s catalogs, mySKY will display a screen like the one above. If you select “GoTo,” mySKY will display an arrow on the screen to guide you to the object you have chosen. mySKY’s catalogs include: stars; double and variable stars; planets; constellations; galaxies; and nebulae, just to name a few. These objects are arranged in various catalogs:

Solar System—planets, the Moon, comets, and asteroids

Deep Sky—star clusters, nebulae, galaxies and more

Constellations—all 88 constellations with star maps

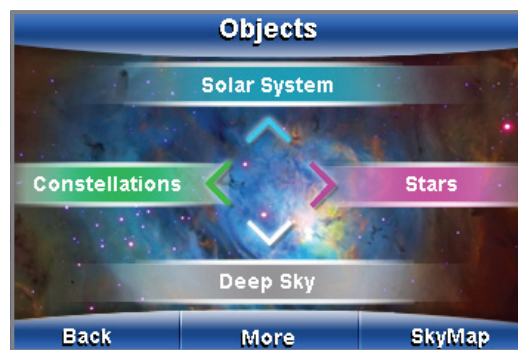
Stars—several catalogs of stars

Example of locating an object: Choosing Saturn from one of mySKY’s catalogs

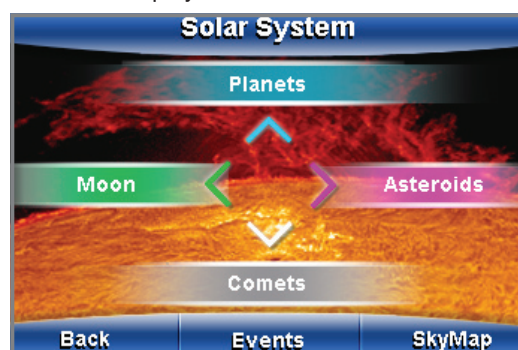
If necessary, push the “Back” button until you see the SkyMap screen. The three soft Buttons are labeled “Objects,” “Options” and “Tours.”



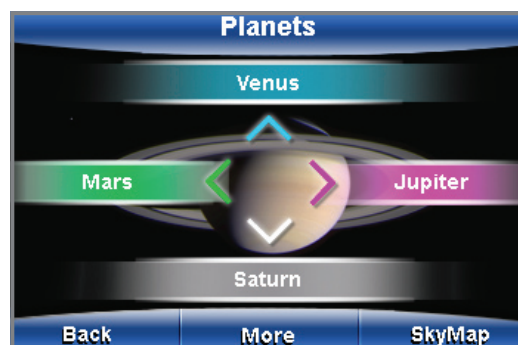
Press the key just below the “Objects” label. The “Objects” screen displays.



Notice the “Solar System” option is at the top of the screen. Press the up arrow to select “Solar System.” The “Solar System” screen displays.

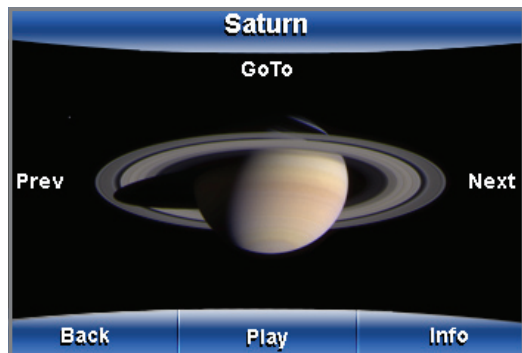


Notice the “Planets” option is at the top of the screen. Press the up arrow to select “Planets.” The “Planets” screen displays.



There are two Planets screens available. The first screen displays the four most commonly viewed planets: Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. If you select “More,” a second Planets page will be displayed. Any time you see “More” displayed on a screen, it means you can go to another screen with more choices or information. Notice the “Saturn” option is at the bottom of the screen. Press the down arrow to select “Saturn.”

For most objects (in this case, Saturn), you will see an image of the object or a similar object representing the object type.



If you press “Play,” you may see additional images of the object on the screen and hear a description of the object in your earbuds. All the planets, constellations, major stars and most popular celestial objects have both audio and visual information. If “Play” is not shown as an option or you want technical data about the object, press “Info” and text with details about the object will be displayed.

If the object you selected is part of a list or catalog, you can use the left or right arrows to display the previous or next object in the list. When the object you want is displayed, press “Play” or “GoTo.”

If you select “GoTo” with the up arrow, mySKY will display the SkyMap and guide you to Saturn with an arrow as described earlier. Congratulations! You have located Saturn!

Use this technique to find other objects in the sky. mySKY contains over 30,000 celestial objects and you can locate any of these objects just as easily.

30,000 objects may seem overwhelming at first and you may never check all of these out. Start with the planets and constellations. Then move to Messier objects and Named Stars, or perhaps Variable Stars (stars that vary in brightness). You will not be able to see many of these objects without a telescope, but you will become more and more familiar with the night sky and with the objects that inhabit it. mySKY can be a personalized astronomy course that lets you learn at your own speed while having fun.

Constellations

If you choose a selection from mySKY’s Constellation list and then select “Trace,” mySKY will highlight, one by one, the major stars of the chosen constellation, tracing out its popular shape on the displayed star map (for example, it will trace out the “dipper” shape of Ursa Major).

The first star in the constellation will be highlighted when you select “Trace.” Press “Next” and the second star will be highlighted. Continue to press “Next” to highlight each star in the constellation. Press “Go To” to have mySKY lead

you to the star currently highlighted on the star map. Press “Back” to trace more stars.

Other Options

Explore the features of the “Options” menu—you may find them quite useful while using mySKY. The features include Battery Level, Night Vision, Lights and Connection.

Battery Level

After selecting “Options,” press the down arrow to select “Technical Info.” Press the right arrow to select “Battery.” A screen will display showing your current battery level. If you notice mySKY acting erratically, it may be time to change the batteries. Keep pressing “Back” to exit this menu.

Nightvision

Press the up arrow to toggle between Nightvision and the Full Color Display. When you select Nightvision, the screen is displayed in red to protect your night vision.

Lights

The Lights menu offers you two submenus: Blink Sights and Light Balance.

Blink Sights: This option allows you to blink the three sights on top of mySKY. This will help when you’re lining up with a celestial object that is dim. Select the Blink Sights option and then press the left arrow to enable blinking. Press the left arrow again to turn on the lights without blinking.

Light Balance: Select the Light Balance option and then press the right or left arrow to change the brightness of the three sights on top of mySKY. Select “Done” after you have set the brightness level. Note that the Brightness button on the side of mySKY sets the brightness level for both the sights and the display. The Light Balance option does not set the brightness level of the display.

Connection

This option allows you to connect to a PC or a Meade® computerized telescope (cable sold separately). Use the up and down arrows to toggle between the two selections. Select “Done” after you make your choice.

Connecting mySKY to a Meade® Computerized Telescope

If you have a Meade computerized telescope, you can connect mySKY with a special cable (sold separately). This will allow you to command your telescope to move (GoTo) any object you have selected with mySKY. Your telescope must first be setup and aligned as usual. Then connect one end of the cable to mySKY and the other

to your telescope. See the instructions that came in the cable package for details.

Requirements:

Microsoft® Windows® 98se / Me / 2000 / XP/ Vista™.

Updating mySKY software:

1. Install Autostar® Suite Astronomer's Edition software on your computer. Insert the Autostar Suite DVD into your DVD drive. The installation software should start automatically. Follow the on-screen instructions.
2. Power off mySKY.
3. Remove the SD memory card by moving the rubber cover on the side of the mySKY and pushing in on the edge of the SD card. The card will pop-out.
4. Insert into a PC SD card reader. If your PC does not have a built-in SD card reader, you will need to obtain a stand-alone reader (inexpensive and available at most local PC and electronic stores). Connect the SD card reader to a USB port on your computer and insert the SD card into the card reader.
5. Find the "Update mySKY" icon that was installed on your computer desktop and double click it. In the

Updater window, click on the drive letter that contains your SD card. Now click on the "Update mySKY SD card" button. The update process will start, the "Update mySKY SD card" button will be grayed out, and the progress bar will begin to fill in. Wait until the progress bar is completely filled in and the "Update mySKY SD card" button is no longer grayed out before you remove the SD card. Do not remove the SD card, close the updater program, or turn off your computer while the SD card is being updated. In the unlikely event of a computer crash, start this step over.

6. After the software has been updated, reinsert the SD memory card back into mySKY.
7. Turn on mySKY. That's it! You now have updated software.

How to Reset mySKY if It Freezes Up

First, press the ON/OFF button.

If that does not work, open the battery compartment and remove one battery for 15 seconds. Replace the battery.

Press the ON/OFF button again to restart mySKY.

Notes

Meade's mySKY is warranted by Meade Instruments Corporations ("Meade") to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of ONE YEAR from the date of original purchase in the U.S.A and Canada. Meade will repair or replace a product, or part thereof, found by Meade to be defective, provided the defective part is returned to Meade, freight-prepaid, with proof of purchase. This warranty applies to the original purchaser only and is non-transferable. Meade products purchased outside North America are not included in this warranty, but are covered under separate warranties issued by Meade international distributors.

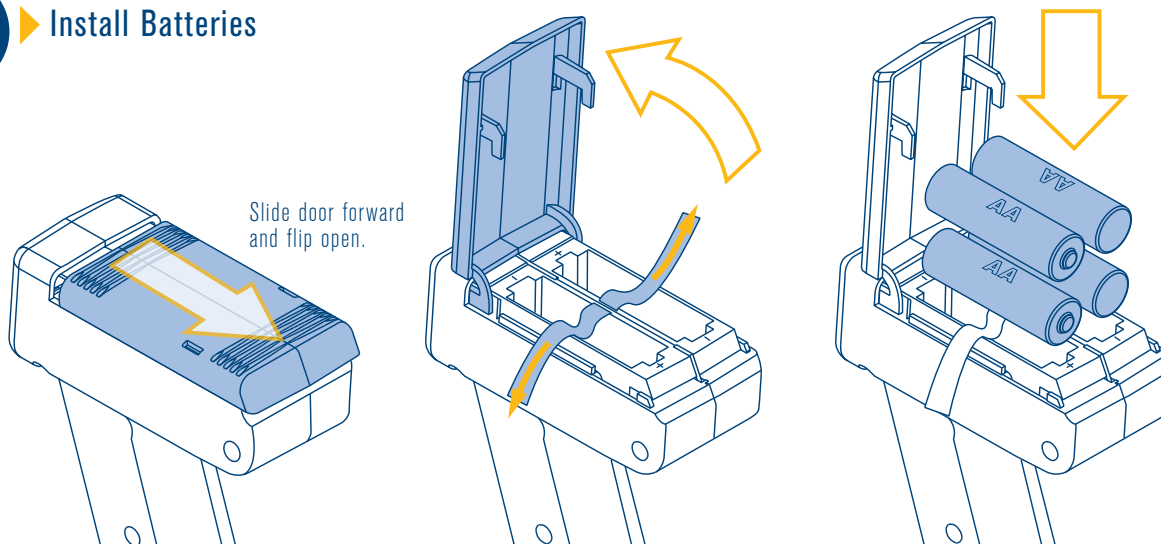
This warranty is not valid in cases where the product has been abused or mishandled, where unauthorized repairs have been attempted or performed, or where depreciation of the product is due to normal wear-and-tear. Meade specifically disclaims special, indirect, or consequential damages or lost profit which may result from a breach of this warranty. Any implied warranties which cannot be disclaimed are hereby limited to a term of one year from the date of original retail purchase.

Meade reserves the right to change product specifications or to discontinue products without notice.

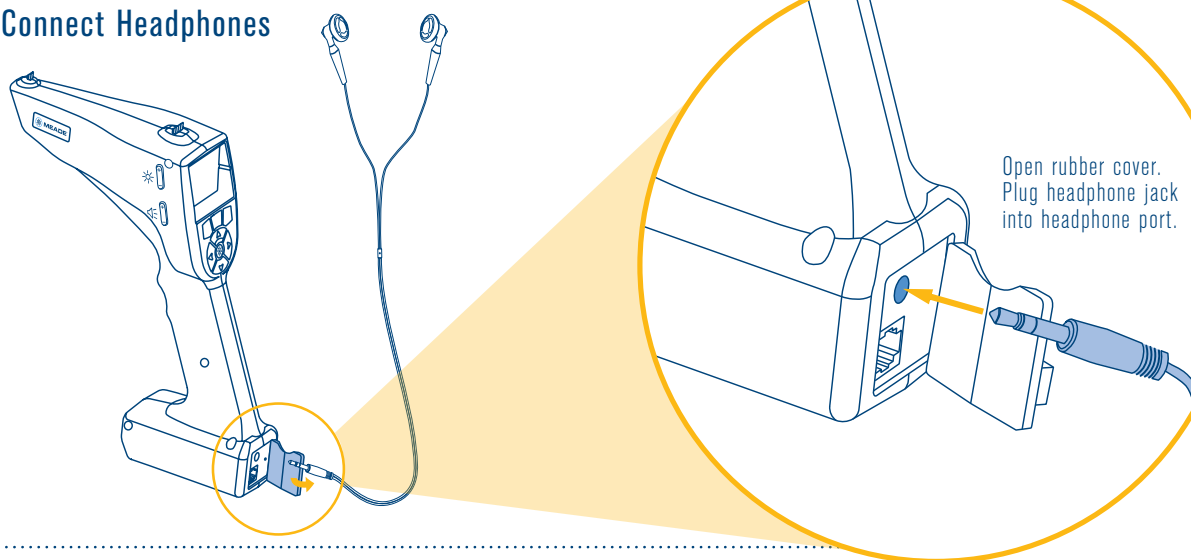


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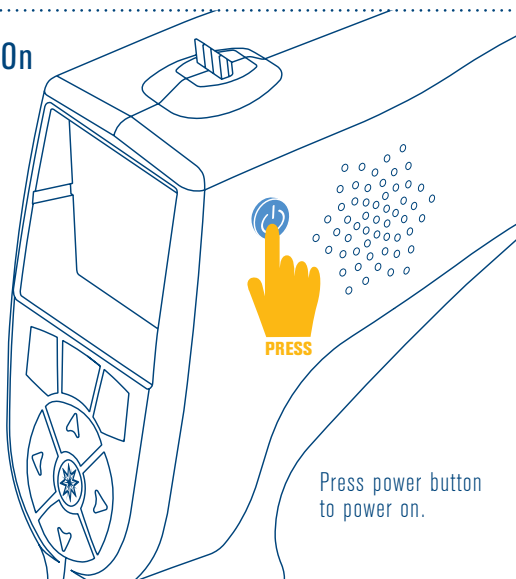
STEP 1 ▶ Install Batteries



STEP 2 ▶ Connect Headphones



STEP 3 ▶ Power On



STEP 4 ▶ Choose *Instructions* or *SkyMap*



Choose *Instructions* to view introduction video or *SkyMap* to start exploring.

